ACID TOWN

Chapter 37 Kyuugou

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June 2017

九號 KYUGO

ACID TOWN

HYOUDOU STANDS FACE TO FACE WITH MASATSUGU. EACH TRY TO GET A FEEL FOR THE OTHER'S TRUE INTENTIONS, BUT ONCE...

アシッドタウン #37

WOULDN'T IT BE A MISTAKE...

... FOR YOU TO WATCH OVER ME?

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN...?

...

YOU TOLD MY FATHER...

!

IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN BLAME YOU.

... ALL ABOUT THAT SECRET MEETING WITH CHANG IN MINUTE DETAIL, DIDN'T YOU?

I KNOW THAT HIRUMA AND THE OTHERS RECEIVED THAT REPORT ABOUT THE SECRET MEETING FROM ANOTHER SOURCE,

AND I ALSO KNOW VERY WELL THAT YOU'RE ALWAYS WORKING FOR ME...

IT'S MY FATHER.

...

BUT I KNOW THE ONE YOU'VE TRULY SWORN LOYALTY TO IS NOT ME.

I DON'T KNOW A MORE STUPIDLY HONEST AND AWKWARD GUY THAN YOU,

AND I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THAT WE'RE SWORN BROTHERS, EITHER.

YOU DON'T TRUST ME?

NO, I DO.

FWIP

... YOU DON'T TRUST ME? HYOUDOU...

ISN'T IT MORE LIKE...

POINK

IT'S LIKE YOU'RE ALWAYS...

... TRYING TO FIGURE OUT MY TRUE INTENTIONS.

AA

YA

...

THAT'S...

THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...

... SINCE I COULD READ YOUR INTENTIONS.

WELD!

SWISH

IT'S NOT LIKE I WANNA HAND OVER MY LIFE TO SOME FUCKING ASSHOLE LIKE WANG.

I MEAN,

NEITHER DO YOU, RIGHT?

I DOUBT IT'LL BE JUST AN HONEST DISCUSSION...

EVEN SO,

IT'D BE LIKE A MOTH TO A FLAME WITH THAT GUY.

IF I BROUGHT YOU WITH ME,

YOU'D KNOW BEST HOW OBSTINATE HE IS.

...

REASONS, HUH...

I'M NOT JUST GOING TO WAIT AROUND AND DO NOTHING.

I HAVE MY REASONS, AND AN OBLIGATION TO PROTECT YOU.

...

I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN.

YOU MEAN A REPEAT OF WHAT HAPPENED TO RYUUJI.

SIGH

MAN...

WHAT AM I GONNA DO WITH YOU...

WELL,

I'M OFF TO NEGOTIATE THE DATE OF THE MEETING.

I THINK WANG WILL HAPPILY ACCEPT, DON'T YOU?

...

WHAT AN INSUBORDINATE SUBORDINATE.

EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T SEE HIS INTENTIONS,

IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T TRUST HIM.

IT SEEMS CHANG WAS KILLED.

ARE THEY TRYING TO FRAME MASATSUGU?

MOST LIKELY

APPARENTLY HE WAS SHOT POINT BLANK, RIGHT BETWEEN THE EYES

OH?

THAT'D TAKE QUITE A BIT OF SKILL

WELL, AT THIS POINT IT'S DO OR DIE FOR HIM, ISN'T IT?

I MIGHT LOSE MY TEMPER A LITTLE BIT

THIS TIME,

DOES HE THINK I INTEND TO LET HIM DO AS HE PLEASES UNTIL HE HITS MY LIMIT?

IN A WAY, THIS IS THE RESULT OF ACTING ON HIS CONVICTIONS.

LOOKS LIKE IT BACK-FIRED

NO,

BECAUSE IT'S MY DUTY TO SUPPORT HIM.

IT MUST BE TOUGH FOR YOU

BUT IN RECENT YEARS, I THINK YOU RESEMBLE MYSELF MORE

I THOUGHT YOUR TEMPERAMENT WAS SO MUCH LIKE A SUBORDINATE AT FIRST,

klak

HONESTLY,

I'M THRILLED TO SEE HOW YOU'VE COME AROUND

VROOOOM

DON'T YOU THINK?

...

"WHAT?!

YOU GUYS KNOW EACH OTHER?!

COUGH IT UP, RYUUJI, YOU BASTARD!"

"AH, SO YOU'RE HYOUDOU!

I'M MAGATSUGU

NICE TO MEET YOU."

I'LL DEFINITELY MAKE HEILONG PAY FOR THIS

AN ARM OR TWO WON'T EVEN MAKE UP FOR IT."

"I HOLD MYSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS INCIDENT AS WELL

"SAY, HYOUDOU

COULD YOU IMAGINE LIVING ANOTHER LIFE SOMEWHERE THAT'S NOT HERE?

IF RYUUJI HADN'T BEEN BORN A YAKUZA

HE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO TRY TO CUT HIS TIES TO THIS WORLD AND ENDED UP LIKE THAT

RIGHT ABOUT NOW HE'D BE WITH HIS WIFE AND CHILD EATING SOMETHING WARM

THIS TIME,

I'M SICK OF THE YAKUZA FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART

"I'VE IMAGINED IT IF I'D LIVED A DIFFERENT LIFE, AND HE

BUT IT ALL JUST SLIPS THROUGH MY FINGERS.

IN THE END, THIS IS ALL I'M FIT FOR

I THINK MAYBE RYUUJI WAS THE SAME

WHEN IT ALL BECAME TOO MUCH, HE COULDN'T JUST THROW IT AWAY

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I STRUGGLE, THE BLOOD OF A YAKUZA FLOWS THROUGH MY VEINS

I CAN'T SEVER THAT CONNECTION

"I'M SICK OF IT," "I CAN'T THROW IT AWAY," WERE WHAT HE WAS REALLY THINKING

THOSE WORDS WERE SET ADRIFT AND RESONATED FROM A PLACE OF RESIGNATION.

BACK THEN THERE WAS NO NEED TO GUESS HIS INTENTIONS

IF OUR EYES MET, WE COULD GAUGE EACH OTHER'S INTENTIONS

FROM THE START, HE WASN'T INTERESTED IN THE CHAIRMAN'S SOCIAL STATUS OR POLITICAL POWER,

AND AT THE TIME, IT WAS LIKE HE WAS WEIGHED DOWN BY HIS POSITION AND THE PATH THAT HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR HIM

I FELT LIKE SOMETHING STARTED TO CHANGE ABOJT TWO YEARS AFTER THE FIGHT WITH THE HEILONG

THAT DAY WAS JNUSUALLY SNOWY, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF SPRING

I REMEMBER WELL,

JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING WAS STAINED WHITE

CLICK

!

BAM

I WASN'T SURE IF YOU'D BE BACK TODAY

I HAPPENED TO BE NEARBY

AFRAID I'D SLIP IN THE SNOW, SO THOUGHT I'D HOLE UP HERE

!

WAKA'

I SEE YOU'RE STILL HERE

I WAS JUST THINKING OF HEADING OUT

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME?

AH

SOMEONE I KNOW GOT IN AN ACCIDENT AND LANDED IN THE HOSPITAL.

SO I WENT TO VISIT THEM

OH

I SEE

IT'S REALLY COMING DOWN

YOU MUST BE FREEZING, I'LL MAKE SOME TEA

UNTIL TH S LATE ?

AH, MAKE IT ALCOHOL INSTEAD

I THINK I'LL STAY HERE,

GO WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A GLASS, TOO?

YEAH

IT SURE IS

MMM

UH, YEAH

IT'S NOT GOOD

THAT ACQUAINTANCE OF YOURS, WERE THEY BADLY HURT?

YEAH

I HOPE THEY GET BETTER SOON

OH

IT'S IN WALKING DISTANCE

IN THIS BLIZZARD?

CLICK

WELL, I BETTER HEAD HOME SOON

WHAT IS IT?

HYOUDOU

WILL YOU FOLLOW ME?

WHEN I ACTUALLY TAKE MY FATHER'S PLACE AS HEAD OF THE FAMILY,

SOMEDAY,

...

JUST THOUGHT I'D TRY ASKING, SINCE I'D WANT TO ACT ON WHATEVER YOU DECIDE

HAHA,

YEAH, I GUESS SO, BUT

WHY DO YOU ASK ALL OF A SUDDEN?

ISN'T IT A LITTLE EARLY TO BE THINKING ABOUT THAT?

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING.

EVERYONE WHO FOLLOWS YOU BELIEVES.

THAT THERE'S NO OTHER SUCCESSOR TO THE CHAIRMAN.

AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I THINK

OH

AT THE TIME,

...

I SEE.

I REMEMBER FEELING LIKE SOMETHING WAS JUST A LITTLE OUT OF PLACE.

AROUND THAT TIME, MASATSUGU-SAN REALLY STARTED TO STAND OUT.

HE GATHERED TOGETHER A GROUP OF YOUNG MEN AND SLOWLY, HIS FACTION GREW STRONGER.

BUT SOME-TIMES...

SOMETIMES,

THERE ARE MOMENTS WHERE I CAN'T READ WHAT HE'S THINKING.

IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T TRUST HIM.

IT'S JUST THAT I HAVE TO SEARCH FOR HIS INTENTIONS.

"WHY DON'T I MEET WITH YUAN WANG?"

... HE DOESN'T CARE.

HE ACTS LIKE...

"BUT IN RECENT YEARS, I THINK YOU RESEMBLE MYSELF MORE."

IS THAT REALLY IT?

IF THAT HAPPENS IT COULD START A WAR!

WHETHER HE WAS BLUFFING OR BEING SERIOUS,

WAKA!

YEAH, THIS COULD BE MY FINAL HOUR...

IT LOOKED LIKE HE WAS ENJOYING BEING PUT IN THAT SITUATION.

MASA-TSUGU-SA...

NAKAMOTO'S FLASHY MOVEMENTS ARE PROBABLY A DIVERSION,

BUT IS HE REALLY CONNECTED TO WANG?

IN ANY CASE, FOR NOW,

THE TOP PRIORITY IS CATCHING NAKAMOTO.

THE LEAK OF THE REPORT OF THE SECRET MEETING,

HAOYU CHANG'S ASSASSINATION,

AND THAT CRUDE BOMBING DONE IN RETRIBUTION...

IT'S ALL LEADING TO OUR SIDE'S NEXT LEADERS TAKING SHAPE IN THE FACE OF THE HEILONG.

I CAN SEE HOW IT WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF MASATSUGU'S FACTION TO COOPERATE AGAINST YUAN WANG'S SCHEME.

THOUGH WE DON'T REALLY GET ALONG...

To Be Continued